



3rd Annual Zero Waste Challenge

The State Recycling Program is coordinating the **3rd Annual Zero Waste Challenge** for this event and we need your help. All waste (trash and recyclables) will be audited and weighed this year. We are challenging this year's participants to reduce the amount of waste (trash & recycling) as compared to 2009. One of the long term goals of the Zero Waste Challenge is to encourage Earth Day participants to strive for zero waste.

Earth Day Waste Statistics					
	Non-Recyclable Trash	Recyclable Material	Total Waste (trash & recycling)	Number of Registered Participants	Amount of Waste (trash & recycling) Generated Per Person
2008	302.1 lbs.	240.2 lbs.	542.3 lbs.	1837	.30 lbs. per person
2009	308.4 lbs.	253.2 lbs.	561.6 lbs.	1553	.36 lbs. per person

Observations from 2008 & 2009 DNR Earth Day Waste Audits

1. A considerable amount of unopened containers of food such as bananas and milk was found in the trash.
2. A significant amount of paperboard packaging from lunches could not be recycled due to food contamination.
3. A significant amount of plastic containers from lunches could not be recycled because these were not #1 or #2 type plastic.



2010 Earth Day Participants are encouraged to ...

- Pack lunches that students will eat.
- Prevent food contamination of recyclable materials such as paperboard/ cardboard packaging.
- "Pre-cycle" by only purchasing #1 & #2 type plastic bottle containers (avoid #3 - #7 plastics).

Notes for Teachers

1. Materials accepted for recycling at DNR's 2010 Earth Day include: mixed office paper, cardboard (including paperboard such as cracker & cereal boxes), aluminum cans & #1 / #2 plastic bottles.
2. Recyclable materials placed in trash containers will be land-filled. Please encourage students to place recyclable materials in the proper recycling container.
3. Consider ways to reduce the amount of food and food packaging that is thrown away. For example, instead of each student having the same brown bag lunch, **could lunch be served buffet-style by having a box of sandwiches, a box of apples, a box of drinks, etc?** Can reusable containers be utilized?



4. Using the waste statistics from 2008 & 2009 that are listed above, 2010 Earth Day participants are being challenged to generate less waste this year. This will require each student, teacher, and state employee doing their part to reduce not only the amount of trash generated, but also the amount of recyclable materials generated. Consider the importance of reducing first, reusing second, and finally recycling.

5. There was 20% increase in the amount of per capita waste (trash & recycling) generated from 2008 to 2009. (see table above) We are challenging 2010 Earth Day participants to decrease the per capita amount of waste generated.